

# Chicopee Register

COMMUNITY

## Fallen soldier to be honored on Memorial Day

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor

CHICOPEE – The entire city grieved when Master Sgt. Luis DeLeon-Figueroa, 31, of Chicopee was killed in action in Afghanistan on Aug. 21, 2019.

Last year, a Memorial Day ceremony would have been held to honor DeLeon-Figueroa, but the COVID-19 pandemic made such a gathering impossible.

This Memorial Day, restrictions are lifted, and the city of Chicopee will recognize the 13-year Army veteran’s ultimate sacrifice during an 11:00 a.m. ceremony at the Chicopee Veterans Memorial Plaza on Front Street.

On May 31, DeLeon-Figueroa’s transcription will be unveiled on the War on Terror Memorial, said Veterans’ Services Director Stephanie Shaw.

“Luis was such a big part of the community, and the community’s been reaching out to us over the past two years about how we’re going to honor him and memorialize him. I think it’s appropriate that we waited so that we could involve the community in the



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Master Sgt. Luis DeLeon-Figueroa, 31, was killed in action in Afghanistan on Aug. 21, 2019. He will be honored during a Memorial Day ceremony at Chicopee Veterans Memorial Plaza.

Master Sgt. Luis DeLeon-Figueroa, killed in action two years ago, has been added to the city’s War on Terror Memorial.

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COMMUNITY

## Remember the 77 Soldiers’ Home victims



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

The names of the 77 Holyoke Soldiers’ Home victims are etched in stone at Stanley Park in Westfield.

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor

WESTFIELD – A resilient group is memorializing the 77 U.S. military veterans who lost their lives as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home in 2020.

A monument at Stanley Park on Western Avenue in Westfield will be devoted to the lost veterans.

“It’s really important because I don’t want people to ever forget. This is history. It was the worst case of COVID

in the entire nation,” said Laurie Mandeville-Beaudette, a member of the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home Coalition, whose father James Mandeville was among those killed.

Beaudette’s husband Michael, a Verizon employee, helped raise \$1,500, funding the placement of a bench and planting of a tree in proximity to the space where the monument will soon stand.

The monument will be set near the “Veterans’ Memorial” in Stanley Park, where the names of the deceased are already etched in stone.

Stanley Park Managing Director Robert McKean explained that the existing memorial contains the names of each man who died as a result of the mass outbreak at assisted-living facility in Holyoke last year.

“After the unfortunate events that happened at the Soldiers’ Home, we said that we wanted to include all the ones who died from COVID in this particular location,” said McKean. “It started with 23 and ended up at 77, but that

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COMMUNITY

## Sharing “Life Lessons from a Doggie”

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor

CHICOPEE – A seasoned Chicopee writer, long employed by corporate America, successfully transitioned to authoring a children’s book.

In February, Chalaine Scott Kilduff released “Sit, Stay, Love: Life Lessons from a Doggie,” a publication that has already earned status as a best-seller on Amazon.

“I never really knew if the dream would come true, but it did,” said Kilduff, who first pondered creating a children’s book when introduced to the youth demographic as a writer for Chick-Fil-A.

When Kilduff’s beloved yellow Labrador retriever Jeter passed away, she was left heartbroken. Through “Sit, Stay, Love,” she is able to keep alive his memory.

Perhaps, nothing is more important to Kilduff than her faith. By writing a children’s book, she sought to promote

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Residents await removal of mask mandate

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor

CHICOPEE – Chicopee residents are counting down the days until the mask mandate goes away, hopefully for the foreseeable future.

Effective on May 29, the Chicopee Health Department will rescind the “Mask Order Mandate” that was put into place on April 27, 2020. The Health Department aims to follow the guidelines set forth by Gov. Charlie Baker.

Wearing a mask will still be required to use public transportation or enter a congregate care facility, hospital or shelter.

On June 1, all of Chicopee’s municipal buildings will reopen to the public. City Hall will resume normal business hours, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

“Members of the public will be required to wear a face-covering if not fully vaccinated per Chicopee Health Depart-

ment guidelines, and only a limited number of individuals will be permitted in the business areas of municipal offices at a single time,” said Bobbi Mabb, Communications Manager for Mayor John Vieau.

Municipal buildings have been closed to the public since Nov. 30, 2020, a decision made to protect city employees, who remained working on-site throughout the pandemic.

The city still encourages residents to conduct business over the telephone or via an online platform when possible.

COVID-19 cases have dropped significantly in Chicopee, leading to the widespread removal of restrictions. On May 26, there were only 59 active cases.

To put that statistic in perspective, there were 626 open cases reported in Chicopee on Jan. 25.

Since the onset of the pandemic, a total of 4,438 COVID-19 cases were reported in Chicopee; 4,232 residents survived, while 26 others lost their lives fighting the

novel coronavirus.

Only three new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Chicopee on May 25. The decreasing case counts led the city to cut down the hours of the municipal COVID-19 testing site, located at the upper level of the RiverMills Center at 5 W Main St.

Beginning on June 1, the site will be open on Tuesdays only, from 8 a.m. until noon.

“A steady decline in numbers at the site led to the decision to reduce the operating days from two days a week down to one day. The test site is open to all Chicopee Residents, Chicopee Municipal Employees, and Regional First Responders,” said Mabb.

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

On June 1, Chicopee City Hall will welcome back members of the public during its regular 9-5 weekday hours. Other municipal buildings will adopt similar hours, beginning next Tuesday.



Memorial Day activities to be city’s first large gathering during pandemic

CHICOPEE – “As Memorial Day approaches, it is time to pause and consider the true meaning of this holiday. Memorial Day represents one day of national awareness and reverence, honoring those Americans who died while defending our Nation and its values. While we should honor these heroes every day for the profound contribution they have made to secure our Nation’s freedom, we should honor them especially on Memorial Day.”

The Chicopee Veterans’ Memorial and Patriotic Committee and the Chicopee Department of Veterans’ Services ask that all Americans come together to

recognize how fortunate we are to live in freedom and to observe a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation’s service. Stephanie Shaw, Director of Veterans’ Services says, “The last Monday in May has held the traditions for Memorial Day for nearly 50 years now. From putting up flags, attending family picnics, making speeches, and marching in parades. People have been coming together in community spirit and national unity for all generations of loved ones lost in service to be remembered on this very special day since 1868 and is no different in 2021, 153 years later. I am proud to be a part of the planning

and organization of this year’s events, and look forward to sharing with all of you who will be joining us to celebrate here in Chicopee.”

Due to the COVID-19 State wide restrictions through the spring, we were unable to plan for the 2021 Memorial Day Parade, however we will be able to facilitate an in person ceremony which will include the Dedication of MSG Luis DeLeon Figueroa’s inscription on our War on Terror Monument. Chicopee TV will be live streaming the event to Social Media, and recording the day to be aired at 7PM that same day. The Department of Veterans’ Services Webpage and all So-

cial Media Accounts will have all up to date information as we progress through the planning of this event and we monitor Governor Bakers re opening phases. Notifications will be on News Channels 22, 40 and Spectrum News 1.

The Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter one-eleven has recorded their traditional Candle-light Ceremony as well and on Sunday, May 30th at 7:00 pm it will be aired on Chicopee TV’s channel as well as made available via our website and social media accounts.

All appropriate COVID-19 safety guidelines will be observed per the Governor’s guidance.

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# Students set to graduate; School Committee talks air quality

By Dalton Zbierski  
Editor

CHICOPEE – In the city of Chicopee, hundreds of high school seniors are nearing graduation. With COVID-19 restrictions to be rescinded May 29, the Class of 2021 will experience normalcy at just the right time.

The Chicopee High School Class of 2021 will graduate during a June 3 ceremony at Szot Park, located at 687 Front St. The 5:30 p.m. ceremony will offer students an opportunity to gather in a fashion that has been implausible for nearly 15 months.

On May 26, CHS seniors participated in a reverse drive thru car parade, during which they picked up yearbooks, caps and gowns.

The Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 2021 will enjoy a similar car parade on June 1.

Comp seniors will graduate at 5:30 p.m. on June 4 at Kuzdzal Field, formerly known as the CCHS Football Field and Athletic Complex, at 617 Montgomery St.

On May 19, the Chicopee School Committee convened for one of its final meetings before the academic year ends. During the meeting, May Center School was approved to operate in the city as a private school.

“It will be wonderful to have a private school that will address the needs of autistic children. It’s an asset to the city to have this type of resource available,” said Ward 9 representative Mary Beth Costello.

As the meeting progressed, Director of Maintenance Scott Chapdelaine spoke on the formation of the district’s Indoor Air Quality Team, which he proposed be reestablished during a February meeting.

“We have made progress on setting us up as a committee,” said Chapdelaine. “We worked with the Superintendent’s Office, along with the grants office, and came up with a job description. We’re thinking around eight people that would



[L to R] Chicopee High School Principal Carol Kruser observes Physics teacher Ben Eisen distribute gowns to graduating seniors on May 26.

be on the committee. They’d all be paid positions, besides myself.”

The team will include a vice principal, a teacher, a cook manager, a “Crossman,” a custodian, a nurse, a paraprofessional and a clerk. Chapdelaine presented on May 19 in hopes of having the team approved during the next committee meeting.

It is Chapdelaine’s hope that the city can soon post jobs and seek candidates, allowing the team to assemble in July.

A training with all eight members would follow, as Chapdelaine teaches each individual how to check air filters, monitor air flow and determine if a unit needs cleaning.

The group would meet at most on a monthly basis, although it could convene during emergency situations. Each team member would be assigned to two schools and serve as a contact person for staff members at those schools.

“Over the years, I’ve noticed a lot of teachers choose what they’re going to complain about or choose what is an is-

sue to them,” said Chapdelaine, “I think getting it down to the school level, where it’s one person with two schools, who someone can go to and say, ‘Hey, can you check this out?’ I think this is going to make that communication a little better. We’re going to get a lot more stuff done this way.”

The team will follow the IAQ Tools for Schools program, a checklist that is available online for everyone to view. At-large representative Chester Szetela is confident that the group will succeed.

“It seems to me that the system that has been put in place seems to be fool proof. There’s a chain of command that easily transfers information and is able to be communicated and shared,” said Szetela.



Members of the Chicopee High School Class of 2021 were given yearbooks during a reverse car parade that occurred on May 26.



Chicopee High School staff members Bill Mattavi and Keegan Dudeck root on the Class of 2021 during a May 26 reverse car parade.

Members of the Chicopee High School Class of 2021 were given yearbooks during a reverse car parade that occurred on May 26.



Chicopee High School teacher Sandra Gregson greets graduating Chicopee High School students on May 26.

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# Chicopee man named 2020 Tree Warden of the Year

CHICOPEE – The Massachusetts Tree Wardens’ and Foresters’ Association (MTWFA) has presented its 19th annual Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year award to Chris Scott, City of Chicopee.

Scott has served as Tree Warden for the City of Chicopee since 2013 and is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Stockbridge School.

Scott began his career working part-time after school for Northern Tree Service. He stayed on after graduating high school and worked his way up to running his own crew doing utility pruning. He took a hiatus to complete his degree at Stockbridge, returning to Northern for a short time before accepting a position with the City of Chicopee to run a tree crew. After a stint working for his family’s logging business, he returned to the City of Chicopee and has

been there ever since.

Scott played a critical role in expanding forestry operations in the City of Chicopee from a two-man department to the current staff of six. With his work and dedication, the city also completed its first ever tree inventory. He worked tirelessly to upgrade the departments equipment from a single 2006 aerial lift boom truck, adding a second boom truck and even more recently, a log truck. Under his guidance, and with support from the city’s Planning Department and City Council, Chicopee has planted over 1,000 new trees.

According to his crew, “Chris is a great leader, always taking the time to show proper techniques and discuss new and improved safety procedures. He also takes time out of his busy work schedule to be a mentor and a friend.”

Scott’s own words exemplify the spirit behind the Tree Warden of the Year recognition, as he thanked the MTWFA.

“As much as I like to keep my circle very small and would be very happy just getting dirty doing tree work with my guys every day, if I truly love what I do, I have to be an advocate for what we do and foster interest from others, whether it is to get people to understand the benefits of trees or get younger generations to see what an awesome career path this industry can be. I truly believe that there is no better community than those that have chosen to make caring for trees their career,” said Scott.

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens’ and Foresters’ Association is the nation’s oldest urban and community tree protection organization, founded in 1913 for the protection and preservation of trees. The

position of tree warden is a municipal one, mandated under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 87, with the charge to protect public shade trees within the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth.

The Tree Warden of the Year award was created in 2002 to honor the late Seth H. Swift, a longtime tree warden for West Springfield and an active member of the association. For more information about the position of tree warden and about the association, visit [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org).

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the MTWFA has not previously been able to celebrate Mr. Scott’s accomplishment. The MTWFA plans to hold an early fall, commemorative tree planting in Chicopee in honor of Mr. Scott’s award. Details will be posted on [www.masstreewardens.org](http://www.masstreewardens.org).

## Councilor Walczak not to seek re-election

CHICOPEE – Stanley Walczak has announced that he will not seek a fourth term as the Ward 9 City Councilor. Walczak stated that he has been in public service for over 40 years and feels now is a great opportunity for new leadership in the ward.

Walczak stated that he has proudly served on a number of important subcommittees, including Zoning, License, Public Works, and Problem Properties. He also served on the one near and dear to him, the Recreation Subcommittee. Walczak previously worked in the Parks Department for 35 years, serving as Superintendent of Parks and Recreation for 20 years before his retirement.

Walczak cited a number of projects completed during his 6 years on the Council. New road construction



Ward 9 Councilor Walczak not to seek re-election

took place on College, Prospect, Montcalm, Theroux, and Hampshire Streets. New sidewalks were installed on New Ludlow Road, and the Jacob Street drainage issues were rectified. Three electronic radar systems were erected to monitor traffic speed. Additionally, old street signs were replaced, crosswalks repainted, and new street lighting added to a number of streets. Walczak concluded that he still has projects pending, including more road work, park improvements, and sewer separation designs for streets in the ward.

Walczak thanked the Ward 9 residents for their vote of confidence over the 3 elections and during his many years serving the city in his various roles.

## Flagging of Veterans Graves in Chicopee



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JESUS M. PEREIRA

CHICOPEE – Please join us in a time-honored tradition in paying respect to those who have served. Please wear masks.

Calvary/Elmwood 2140 Northamp-

ton Street May 24th, 3-5p.m. [Rain Date May 25th Forestdale 304 Cabot Street May 28th, 4p.m.]

St. Jerome 125 St Jerome Ave May 22nd, 10 a.m.

### NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Chicopee Register, please email [chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com).

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## EARLY DEADLINES

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## Local resident receives computer through Marine Corps Reserve Association

CHICOPEE – The Young Marines, a national youth organization, announced a new collaborative initiative called “Computers for Kids.” It was created and funded by the US Marine Corps Reserve Association (USMCRA).

Among the recipients of the computers is a local resident: YM/LCpl Cheyanne Hernandez-Hoag from Westover Young Marines in Chicopee received a computer.

Several months ago, Col. Paul K. Hopper USMC (Ret), national president of USMCRA, observed vulnerabilities in school systems regarding the pandemic. He found that there were many children who did not have access to a personal computer to do their school-

work online, and that many were working off a parent’s work computer or one borrowed from another family member.

To help these children, Col. Hopper reached out to several potential donors who were very interested in the “Computers for Kids” program. With these donations, the USMCRA was able to provide 12 computers, two computers for each of the Young Marines’ six divisions.

“The USMCRA is grateful for the generosity of our many supporters, all of whom are willing to help with donations on a grassroots level,” Col. Hopper said. “We want to be a conduit to help our youth to be successful and productive citizens.”

## Polish Center of Discovery and Learning hosting annual Golf Tournament

CHICOPEE – The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning announced today that it will host the 20th annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 7, 2021 at the Ludlow Country Club in Ludlow, MA. Golfers are cordially invited to join us at the breathtaking Donald Ross designed golf course for an outstanding day of golf, great prizes, and great networking opportunities.

By hosting this tournament, the Polish Center will be honoring our ancestors, and golfers will be supporting the Museum’s efforts to keep the heri-

tage and spirit of Polonia alive. Golfers of all cultures and skill levels are encouraged to come and play. It will be a memorable event.

The cost is \$130 per person and includes cart, golf fees, driving range, lunch, dinner and \$20 raffle ticket card. Checks payable to the Polish Center and mailed to Joseph Kos, 5 Lynn Ann Dr., Holyoke MA 01040.

For more information about the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, please visit <http://www.polishcenter.net> or call 413-592-0001.



# Vieau proposes eight orders during May 18 meeting

By Humera Gul  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – A meeting of the Chicopee City Council occurred on May 18. During his briefing, Mayor John Vieau went over eight orders and asked the council to approve them.

In his first order, Vieau asked the council for \$1 million to cover the Department of Public Works’ “Highway special account for roads and sidewalks.”

A total of \$1 million is still needed to cover the balance after the reimbursement of Chapter 90 funds.

“We’re looking at an infrastructure bill right now of \$1.9 trillion that we’re not sure what’s going to happen with that has been sitting in in Congress in Washington. If that ends up getting passed, that changes things,” Mayor Vieau said.

In the second order, Vieau asked for \$471,384 to cover the DPW’s “Highway special accounts for snow and ice removal.” Free cash flow is used to cover winter expenses, as the budget starts at just \$100,000, so Chicopee is able to get more state funding.

In the third order, he requested \$32,321 to cover the Treasurer’s special for bond anticipation interest. This is a partial payment, and Vieau mentioned that they may borrow long term due to low interest rates.

In the fourth order, Vieau asked for \$6,700 to be placed in the following account: “Special account for ambulance billing.”

In the fifth order, the council was asked to accept a grant of \$15,000 from Massachusetts Jail/Arrest Diversion program. This grant will help train police and address mental health issues.

In the sixth and seventh orders, Vieau asked for the reappointment of Robin Keanney-Bineau and Jessica Herbert as trustees of the Irving & Alice Page trust fund.

In the eighth order, the council was asked to accept donations of \$9,829 to the Chicopee Council on Aging.

Vieau then spoke about COVID-19 and how Chicopee has been handling the pandemic. He stated the city has gone to yellow category from red. June 15th marks the end of the emergency declaration for the state of Massachusetts. The city of Chicopee is anticipating \$21.9 million from covid packages for relief.

The first mayor order was amended but passed. The last sentence was deleted from the mayor’s order and it passed. Ward 1 Councilor Joel McAuliffe amended the order. The other eight Mayor’s Orders all passed without any

amendments or changes.

The City Council discussed the progress of fiber optic internet by the Chicopee Electric Light Department and its investment. A total of 4,500 homes are able to connect to the fiber optic network, and, currently, there are 1,000 homes connected.

There are 30 to 40 homes each week added to the network. The average installation cost is fiber optics each \$1,500 from the street to the home. Also, building and finishing fiber optic internet will cost \$20,500,000.

Also, the council changed several future meeting dates due to local elections. The meeting on Tues., Sept. 21, 2021 is going to be on Thurs., Sept. 23, 2021. Furthermore, the Tues. Nov. 2, 2021 meeting is going to be held on Tuesday Nov 4, 2021.

# DA Gulluni files lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Justice

SPRINGFIELD – (May 19, 2021) Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni has filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court seeking to compel the U.S. Department of Justice to produce any documents the department used as the basis of its findings in a July 8, 2020 report, which describes the investigation into the Springfield Police Department’s Narcotics Bureau.

The report concludes that officers in the Narcotics Bureau engaged in a pattern and practice of excessive force often violating the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution. The report also asserts that officers submitted reports that were inaccurate and contrary to other video, photographic, and other available evidence. The report, however, does not reveal the names of officers or any identifying information about the cases in which these abuses purportedly occurred.

The findings of the DOJ report create an ethical obligation for the Hampden District Attorney’s Office to provide

any potentially exculpatory material to defendants in cases in which these officers may be involved. In seeking to fulfill these obligations, the Office made multiple requests to the U.S. Department of Justice and the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Massachusetts after the report’s publication. All of these requests were denied. The Hampden District Attorney’s Office also requested this same specified material from the City of Springfield. However, the City of Springfield stated it was unable to pinpoint officers or cases implicated by the DOJ report because of the years that the DOJ spent on the investigation and the hundreds of thousands of documents the DOJ accessed. In lieu of these specifics cited in the DOJ report, the City of Springfield has granted the Hampden District Attorney’s Office access to these more than 114,000 pages of documents originally supplied to the DOJ.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni stated, “Assertions made in the DOJ report remain a concern, as they call on our ethical duties as prosecutors

to provide any information to defendants that could point to their innocence or aid them in their defense. Despite our best efforts to obtain this critically important information from the United States Attorney’s Office and the Department of Justice, we have been turned away after multiple attempts spanning almost a year. The goal is to get the specifics of these serious allegations so that we can ensure the rights of accused persons are protected and fairness results from our work. If there are bad cops who are dishonest and not following the law, we

want to know about it and make sure they do not stand as witnesses in our cases or affect the fairness of our criminal justice system.”

District Attorney Gulluni continued, “Efforts to cooperatively obtain this important information were denied. We will now march into federal court to find out who and what is involved in the DOJ report in order to do the right thing.” In anticipation of submitting this lawsuit, Hampden District Attorney Gulluni was sworn into the federal bar on December 17, 2020.

# Springfield fireworks to return

SPRINGFIELD – It’s official! Star Spangled Springfield fireworks will be returning to the city’s skyline on Sunday, July 4, 2021.

When Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker announced that all COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted on May 29, 2021, the Spirit of Springfield reached out to Fireworks by Grucci to determine their ability to perform. After checking their inventory and production schedule, and rounding up a team of top-notch pyrotechnicians, Fireworks By Grucci committed to provide a spectacular fireworks display for Springfield.

“We are so excited to be back in the business of bringing the community together in celebration,” said Spirit of Springfield President Judy Matt. “Now is the time to celebrate. Our community needs this and our spirits need this. We look forward to a safe and family-friendly atmosphere, and are grateful for the support and services from the City of Springfield and all of our partners.”

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno stated, “When you wish upon a star, magic is sure to follow. It is with great pride and joy that we announce that our beloved Spirit of Springfield Star Spangled 4th of July Fireworks are back! What better way to celebrate the resiliency of our city as we transition to post-pandemic recovery aspects, then with our Star Spangled 4th of July fireworks. This is wonderful and great news and

will be a huge boost for the psyche of our Springfield and all of Western Massachusetts.”

Sarno stated that his administration continues to review its phased reopening plans after the state lifted and relaxed its COVID-19 Coronavirus restrictions. Sarno also met with his Cabinet Heads and Spirit of Springfield President Judy Matt.

“We are pleased to announce that we are confident that we can hold this joyous and festive event - much as we did 10 years ago with our tornado recovery,” said Sarno.

Sarno thanked Fireworks by Grucci for its commitment and residents and members of the business community for their patience, understanding, and vigilance during the pandemic.

More details about Star Spangled Springfield, restrictions, entertainment, and sponsors, will be released at a later date.

Star Spangled Springfield has been a celebration of the country’s independence and a July 4th tradition since 1991. It has featured musical entertainment, family-friendly activities, and world-class pyrotechnics by Fireworks by Grucci. MassMutual has been the lead sponsor since 2006 with additional support from area businesses.

For updates, follow Spirit of Springfield on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and visit spiritofspringfield.org.

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. A group of sheep

5. Of she

8. This (Spanish)

12. A type of sorcery

14. A team's best pitcher

15. Port in southern Japan

16. Makes very happy

18. Trigonometric unit of measurement

19. From a distance

20. Winged nut

21. Consumed

22. "Heat" director

23. In all places

26. Made improvements to

30. St. \_\_\_ Girl: brand of beer

31. A type of "seat"

32. Wood

33. A brief treatise on a subject of interest

34. Approval

39. Basics

42. Where judges sit

44. W. African religion

46. Commentators

47. Having many different functions

49. Member of a Semitic people

50. Flightless, fast-running bird

51. After the seventh

56. Small N. Zealand tree

57. Health care pro (abbr.)

58. Playground mainstay

59. Expressing relief

60. Records brain activity (abbr.)

61. Fishing net

62. Beer

63. Tooth caregiver

64. Japanese beverage

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Garden tools

2. Early Syrian kingdom

3. 500 sheets of paper

4. Information

5. Beloved comic strip character

6. Distinct form of a plant

7. Replenishment

8. Semitransparent glassy substance

9. Expedition to observe animals

10. One who held landed granted by Anglo-Saxon king

11. Obtain in return for labor

13. Inheritable genetically

17. One who rescues

24. Doctor of Education

25. Liberal arts

26. Shock treatment

27. Disfigure

28. When you hope to get there

29. Peacock network

35. Part of (abbr.)

36. The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet

37. Not just "play"

38. Former CIA

40. Reduced to a sloping edge

41. Restricted the development of

42. Sciences degree

43. Sea eagles

44. Saturated

45. Joints

47. Sailing boat

48. Respiratory organs

49. Guitarists use them

52. Disco act: Bee \_\_\_

53. First Chinese dynasty

54. Intentionally lose

55. Muslim people of China

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 15



## GUEST COLUMN

### Tomato planting 101

With the quintessential frost-free target date of Memorial Day just days away, I think it's the perfect time to encourage folks to give gardening a try. Growing tomatoes is a good place to start. First, because growing them is relatively easy and secondly, because you will be delighted with a great return for your investment of a little money and some time.

No supermarket tomato could ever compare to one that is homegrown and sun-ripened.

First of all, head to the local nursery and select a plant. There are many varieties to choose from. Do you prefer slicing tomatoes, cherry or pear-shaped for salads, or meaty paste types? If you plan on growing your tomato in a patio container, it may be best to settle on a determinate or bush type that will require next to no staking and will remain tidy in its pot.

Find a spot in your yard that gets at least six hours of sun a day. Less than that and you will have more leaves than fruit. If necessary, remove existing sod to accommodate your plant(s). Tomatoes should be spaced about 18 inches to two feet away from one another. For one plant prepare a section two feet wide by two feet deep. Now, go ahead a dig a fairly deep hole. How deep depends on the size of your transplant. Since tomatoes have the ability to form roots along their stem, plan on burying one-half to three-quarters of the stem in addition to the root ball. Don't worry; although this planting depth sounds extreme, it will be better for the plant in the long run. In my experience, a cup or two of well-rotted manure or aged compost mixed with the soil in the bottom of the planting hole along with a sprinkling of balanced organic fertilizer is all the food your tomatoes will need during the growing season.

If you plan on growing your tomato in a container, choose one that is at least a foot wide and deeper if possible. Fill it 50/50 with potting soil and garden loam or compost. The blend will be lightweight and nutritious.

Tomatoes need support in the form of a cage or tall bamboo stakes wrapped with twine at regular intervals. Although your transplants may seem puny now, go ahead and install the supports at planting time. Once planting is complete be sure to give them a hearty drink. Continue to water every other day for the first week or so if nature doesn't provide adequate rainfall. Watering at the base of the plant will direct water to the roots and keep most of the foliage dry. A good practice in disease prevention. Once the plants are established, a deep watering twice a week is all that is necessary. Mulch of some kind, be it straw, grass clippings, chopped leaves or even sheets of newspaper will keep the weeds down and conserve moisture; some say it also helps to prevent disease by preventing backslash onto the foliage.

Often times experts recommend pruning away the suckers that form between the main stem and side shoots. If you do you will have fruit that is bigger, but in smaller quantities. Most of all, don't worry about the rules and regulations, just do your best and have fun with your first gardening experience.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

#### IN THE GARDEN



**Roberta McQuaid**  
Columnist

## GUEST COLUMN

### Quotes and notes for Memorial Day

As Memorial Day approaches, families and friends are posting memorable and meaningful quotes and notes honoring loved ones who served in the military, and gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

Often quotations simply state what someone has significantly and succinctly written. Quoting those exact words expresses our thoughts and the original author is acknowledged. However, there are times when, even with research, the quest for the quote results in: "Author Unknown."

Picture this: an outstanding quote overlays multiple rows of the dog tags from different eras, worn by our United States servicemen and women. Its riveting message has shocking contrasts. Unexpectedly a gem of truth lies within less than 25 words. That singular, poignant sentence uses the words "precious metals." And, our minds usually conclude: gold, platinum and silver. Right? But, no, the "priceless metals" message resonates deeper.

Grabbing your complete attention, the poignant statement captures your breath:

"The most precious metals on earth are the Dog Tags of our warriors who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our country's freedom." Author Unknown.

During our country's Civil War (1861-1865), identifying that war's casualties, amounting in the hundreds of thousands, became overwhelming. In 1906, Medals of America research indicated that the U.S. government decided that circular, imprinted



Joan E. B. Coombs

aluminum discs would be worn as identification tags. By 1913 each of the military wore a half-dollar-sized disc, as a means of identification, around their necks, with the name, rank, company, regiment or corps.

Through World War I (1914-1918) Dog Tag issuances were protocol. In World War I (1939-1945) a new design, was issued in a rectangular shape. Notably during World War II, the nickname "Dog Tags" was officially adopted. Later, during the Vietnam War (1955-1975), the dog tags were also tied in boots. Today, dog tags are made of stainless steel and are still a significant part of the military requirements. (Source: Medals of America)

Several other Memorial Day noteworthy quotes also remind us of "The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" in Washington, D.C. that is honored daily. The following quotes are by "Unknown Authors." Each one arouses a soul-stirring response:

"Home of the free because of the brave."

"We don't know them all, but we owe them all."

And, especially this Memorial Day weekend, when we see the American flag, may this quote be among the ones you remember and treasure:

"Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it."

God bless America and all those who fought and sacrificed their lives for our freedoms.



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sonal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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# MMWEC responds to ISO New England's costly plan

LUDLOW – (May 26, 2021) The Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, the state's joint action agency for non-profit municipal utilities, is expressing its continued opposition to an ISO New England proposal it says will be costly to consumers and hinder the New England states' efforts to build offshore wind projects.

Current market rules prevent offshore wind projects from being fairly priced to compete in the ISO-NE administered Forward Capacity Market (FCM). This artificial barrier to entry into the FCM places consumers in the position of having to pay twice for capacity. Several New England states are procuring offshore wind through solicitation programs which obligate consumers to pay for those resources. However, these same resources cannot provide capacity, forcing consumers to purchase capacity a second time. To correct this burden on consumers and facilitate the continued development of offshore wind

resources, MMWEC provided leadership in the development of New England Power Pool's alternate position that has been filed before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Today, MMWEC announces its continued leadership in protecting consumers by filing responses to ISO-NE's comments to FERC which regrettably support the continued practice of imposing high costs on consumers.

At issue is ISO-NE's recently filed answer in ongoing litigation at the FERC related to the Offer Review Trigger Price. ORTP values have long been used by ISO-NE to prevent state sponsored resources, like offshore wind, from offering competitive capacity prices that would clear the FCM. NEPOOL market participants, through its recent filing to FERC, believe that ISO-NE is setting the ORTP well above offshore wind's competitive price. By setting the ORTP for offshore wind at the highest possible price in the auction, the ISO is all but ensuring that offshore

wind resources will not be competitive in the FCM. This means that the offshore wind resources that the states have already purchased through their clean energy programs will not provide capacity. MMWEC in its response at FERC maintains this is a poor policy decision that would unfairly burden consumers with duplicative charges. MMWEC supports an alternative proposal put forth by NEPOOL, of which it is a member, which would set the ORTP at zero.

MMWEC cites FERC Chairman Richard Glick in its response, in which Glick stated, "Electric markets are, and always have been, the product of public policy. Pretending otherwise or trying to mitigate our way to a market free from the effects of certain public policies will only harm consumers, create needless federal-state tensions, and undermine faith in the regional markets whose development has been this Commission's crowning achievement."

Chairman Glick contends that regional markets can utilize resources of all types – both the clean resources being promoted by the states, and the resources that help balance the system. This dynamic, with a diverse resource mix, will enable our clean energy future.

While ISO-NE has recently supported elimination of the Minimum Offer Price Rule, the lowest price by which a resource can bid into a market, which aims to eliminate artificially low prices, this ORTP proposal does not fully support that position. Instead, it would likely cause over-procurement of capacity and unnecessary, duplicative costs on ratepayers.

MMWEC was joined in the filing by New Hampshire Electric Co-Op (NHEC), a consumer-owned non-profit electric cooperative serving over 80,000 members across New Hampshire.

FERC is expected to rule on the competing ISO-NE and NEPOOL filings by early June.

## FALLEN SOLDIER from page 1

ceremony with his family," said Shaw.

Mayor John Vieau will accompany DeLeon-Figueroa's relatives, as they make their way towards the monument. There, his dog tags will be placed down.

"We manufacture dog tags for each individual whose inscriptions are on the monument. We've had his made and will add his set of dog tags with the others to memorialize his life, his service and his sacrifice," said Shaw.

While COVID-19 restrictions were lifted on May 29, planning a Memorial Day ceremony takes several months. For that reason, there will be no traditional parade in Chicopee this year.

Shaw still anticipates "filling the

green" in front of Dupont Middle School, a building named in honor of First Sgt. Kevin A. Dupont, who passed in June of 2009 at the age of 52, succumbing to wounds he suffered while serving in Afghanistan that March.

Shaw urges residents to reflect on the meaning of Memorial Day, which stems beyond an annual parade and a day off from work.

She encourages the city to remember all who are affected when a military man or woman makes the ultimate sacrifice.

"Memorial Day is about sacrifices and those that we've lost. It's also about the loved ones who are still here grieving that loss for decades to come. That wound doesn't ever heal," said Shaw.

"Annually, they are burdened with those personal milestones, like birthdays, but Memorial Day is so that they know the rest of the country sees them and appreciates them and knows [our freedom] is because of what their loved ones gave up; their own lives."

The principle of honoring fallen American soldiers, and acknowledging living veterans, is always relevant. It doesn't take much time to express gratitude to our military men and women.

"Never forget," said Shaw. "The old adage says, 'Those who don't remember the past are doomed to repeat it.' I think remembering that it's not by chance or luck that we are where we are and we're able to do what we do is really important to ensure that these

freedoms exist for all future generations."

At 3p.m. on Memorial Day, residents are asked to take a moment of silence, a tradition that began at the end of the administration of President Bill Clinton, said veteran Brian Willette, the State Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

"It's a national moment of remembrance," said Willette. "This year, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America is running an online campaign called '#GoSilent,' and they're urging all Americans at that moment to take that moment of reflection at 3 p.m. and to go silent, remember the sacrifice and know to be grateful that we live in freedom because of the sacrifice."

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REMEMBERING from page 1

didn't stop us. We're going to take care of all the ones that came under that particular issue."

Inscriptions on and around the standing memorial at Stanley Park are not limited to the veterans who died at the Soldiers' Home, but the park has gone to great lengths to offer family members of Soldiers' Home victims a peaceful location to remember their loved ones.

The past 15 months have been especially difficult for Beaudette. The alleged negligence that led to the death of her father, and dozens of other veterans, continues to haunt her.

"For veterans to get treated the way they were treated, and by the former administration making the lousy decisions that they made, they killed these veterans. There's criminal charges pending against two of them. We're praying that more get criminal charges and their medical licenses taken away," said Beaudette.

In addition to the deaths of 77 residents, dozens of additional veterans and staff members at the Soldiers' Home were sickened, resulting from the administration's poor handling of the outbreak.

At the request of Gov. Charlie Baker, an investigation led by former federal prosecutor Mark Pearlstein produced a 174-report last June that detailed an "utterly baffling" series of "substantial errors" made by top officials at the Soldiers' Home at the time of, and leading up to, the outbreak.

Former Soldiers' Home Superintendent Bennett Walsh and former Medical Director David Clinton each face five counts of causing serious bodily injury and five counts of criminal neglect, due to their questionable oversight of the state-run facility.



Stanley Park Managing Director Robert McKean stands alongside Verizon Western Mass area manager Mike Beaudette, who helped fundraise for the placement of a memorial for the Soldiers' Home victims in the park.

For Beaudette, it is important to move past the negativity and remember her father for the wonderful life he lived; not how it ended. The healing process, however, moves slowly.

"That takes time. I'm starting to get to that point where I can focus on the good things. I'm trying not to think about that last month of his life and him dying alone at Holyoke Medical Center," said Beaudette.

James Mandeville passed away on April 14, 2020; the first anniversary of his death was difficult for his surviving loved ones.

Next month, Mandeville would have turned 85-years-old. Beaudette, and other individuals who lost family members, are attempting to remain positive; a difficult task.

"I think the [families] are incredibly courageous because the trauma that we went through is just awful," said Beaudette.



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO S BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Holyoke Soldiers' Home Coalition member Laurie Beaudette, Stanley Park Managing Director Robert McKean, Joe Savaria and Mike Beaudette of Verizon participate in a check presentation for a monument that will honor the 77 Soldiers' Home victims at Stanley Park in Westfield.

"I'm still in therapy over it. Some days, you just feel like you're functioning. Other days, you feel paralyzed from it. It was awful."

Moving forward, fundraising will continue to ensure that the monument will be added in Stanley Park. Beaudette has found refuge at the park, where her father's legacy carries on.

"This is one of the most beautiful parks in western Mass, and I can't believe it's still free to come here. It's amazing. You couldn't ask for a nicer place," said Beaudette.



As part of the "Veterans' Memorial" in Stanley Park in Westfield, a monument will soon be implemented to honor the lives of the 77 veterans who died of COVID-19 after contracting it at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

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# STCC offers free ‘Out of School Time’ class in June

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College this summer will offer a free class to people working in after-school programs, summer camps, community centers and other places that provide education and care outside of regular school time.

The online class, called Out of School Time, addresses a growing need: how to educate and care for children when they’re not in school. Conor J. Bevan, the director of program development for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke, teaches the class, which serves as an entry to an STCC certificate in Early Education.

STCC will offer 20 free seats in the class, which runs during Summer Session 1 between June 7 and July 9. The class, which is designed for people working in the field, serves as an entry point to the certificate in early childhood education called Child Development Associate Plus. (Learn more about CDA+ by visiting [stcc.edu/info/child-development-associate](http://stcc.edu/info/child-development-associate)).

The certificate is only 26 credits and is completed in less than a year, said Richard Greco, dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies at STCC.

The class covers areas such as curriculum design, behavior management, child and family interaction, and childhood development.

To enroll in the class or apply to be a student in the CDA+ program,, visit [stcc.edu/info/child-development-associate](http://stcc.edu/info/child-development-associate) or call Admissions at (413) 755-4812. For questions about the Out of School Time class, email Aimee Dalenta: [adalenta@stcc.edu](mailto:adalenta@stcc.edu), or Jennifer Wallace-Johnson: [jwjohnson@stcc.edu](mailto:jwjohnson@stcc.edu).

# HCC offering free summer STEM classes

HOLYOKE - The STEM Starter Academy at Holyoke Community College is offering free courses this summer for students interested in pursuing STEM majors at HCC or careers in the STEM field.

“STEM Explorations,” a four-credit lab science class, will run July 6 to Aug. 5 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with an additional lab on either Thursdays or Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The class is open to currently enrolled and incoming HCC students, dual enrolled high school students and adults interested in learning more about STEM. There are no prerequisites to apply for admission and 100 percent of costs are covered.

The course will meet online in real time. Lab kits and course materials are included and will be sent to students’ homes. Supplemental instructors and peer mentors will be available for tutoring and to advise students about STEM options at HCC.

“This is an excellent opportunity to get four free college credits while learning about science, technology, engineering and math,” said Melissa Paciulli, HCC STEM Starter Academy director. “STEM Explorations is always a fun, engaging and exciting class.”

In addition, HCC is also offering a free Calculus 1 class this summer for currently enrolled STEM majors and students who score high enough on the college placement test.

This four-credit online course runs June 7 - July 8.

To apply for free summer STEM classes, please visit: [hcc.edu/stemstarter](http://hcc.edu/stemstarter)

For more information, please contact Melissa Paciulli at [mpaciulli@hcc.edu](mailto:mpaciulli@hcc.edu)

**AUTHOR** from page 1

the timeless wisdom and values found in the Bible.

The book itself does not incorporate Bible verses but does include many lessons that are biblically-based. A self-proclaimed dog-lover, Kilduff felt confident she could use man’s best friend as a mechanism to connect with audiences.

“I wanted a way to tie in [biblical lessons] and also bring in the dogs because I feel like dogs can teach us a lot of things. They’re so loyal and so loving,” said Kilduff. “I thought, ‘What if a dog taught these lessons,’ and I made a list of lessons I wanted to highlight. I pieced them together and connected with my illustrator friend, and here we are.”

Initially, Kilduff was unsure if the book would get published. When she submitted her work to several publishing companies, one responded back, claiming interest; Kilduff knew there was a chance.

“[Puppy Dogs and Ice Cream Publishing] said they would be making a decision on a certain date. All day that day, I was constantly updating my email. I was on a walk with my husband and got the email. I couldn’t even catch my breath I was so excited,” said Kilduff, a professional Senior Editor.

As a published author, one of Kilduff’s most rewarding experiences has been reading to local students. Reading her children’s book aloud to a room full of children only further motivates Kilduff, who is crafting a series of children’s books titled “Sit, Stay, Love.”

“I have to say that it’s my favorite thing so far. I had never really interacted with students. When I do presentations for work, it’s always kind of corporate and adult so the first day I did my reading, I didn’t know how it would go. I absolutely loved it. Being able to see the kids interact and pay attention to the characters and

tell me what lesson was their favorite; it’s indescribable. It brings me so much joy,” said Kilduff.

Kilduff is currently working on the her second piece, titled “Be the Best Kind of Friend,” which will focus on dogs teaching lessons that pertain to loving others regardless of what they look like.

Every time Kilduff presents in a classroom, she leaves more inspired. While her first story was centered around a yellow lab, her second book will feature an array of breeds.

“I want kids to be able to open the book and say, ‘This looks like my dog.’ It has all different dog breeds in it and is about loving others no matter what they look like,” said Kilduff. “My number one building block for these books is to be fun but also be valuable and teach lessons.”

For more information regarding the series, one can visit [sitstayloveseries.com](http://sitstayloveseries.com).

On June 12, from 10 a.m. until noon, Kilduff will do a live reading of “Sit, Stay, Love” at Goodworks Coffee House on Center Street.

Books will be available for purchase at the event, and Goodworks will provide a free cookie with every book purchase. Goodworks will also have “puppuccinos” on request for local dog lovers in attendance.



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CHALAINE SCOTT KILDUFF

Chalaine Scott Kilduff displays a copy of “Sit, Stay, Love: Life Lessons from a Doggie,” a children’s book she released in February.

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# HAPPY 56TH BIRTHDAY, HEAD START!

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Senior center schedules range of programs

CHICOPEE – In the coming weeks, the RiverMills Senior Center at 5 W Main St. in Chicopee will offer local seniors access to a range of exciting programs.

“The Celebration of Music”

On Thurs., June 3, the COA will host the series “The Celebration of Music” via Zoom at 2:30 p.m.

Join Craig Harris, master percussionist, educator, historian, author and photographer for this three part Zoom series. Sessions will cover Laughter, The Glory of Rock & Roll and America’s Musical Roots. Registration is required by calling RiverMills Center at 534-3698 or registering via the registration link provided on RiverMills Facebook Page.

“Weight Loss & Hypnosis” Zoom Series

The COA will be offering a Weight Loss & Hypnosis three part series via Zoom. The Zoom series will take place on Monday, June 7, 14 and 28 at 3:00 p.m.

This series will be led by Robin Davis and will incorporate mind and body techniques, including hypnosis. The cost is \$25 for the series. Space is limited. You must register in advance by calling RiverMills Center and by providing your email address. Payment must be mailed or dropped off at RiverMills Center before the first session. Once your payment is received, you will be emailed the Zoom link for the series. Checks can be made out to Robin Davis. Please call 534-3698 for more information.

“Parking Lot Bingo!”

The Council on Aging will offer Parking Lot Bingo on Wed., June 9 and 23 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. in the lower level parking lot at RiverMills Center!

Participants will stay in their vehicles with their radios on. Bingo numbers will be called and you will hear the numbers called thru your radio. Instructions will be passed out before Bingo begins. If you get Bingo, honk your horn and win a prize. Though these are free events, you must register in advance by calling RiverMills Center at 534-3698.

“Identity Theft & Protection”

The COA will offer the presentation “Identity Theft & Protection” via Zoom on Tues., June 8 at 11:00 a.m.

Led by Robin Putnam, Events & Outreach Manager from the Office of Consumer Affairs, this presentation will focus on how to avoid scams, how to prevent identity theft and steps to take if you have fallen victim. Please call 534-3698 to register or register using the Zoom registration link on RiverMills Centers Facebook Page.

“Eating Well While Eating Out”

On Wed., June 16 at 11:00 a.m., the COA will offer the program “Eating Well While Eating Out.”

This workshop, presented by Ascentria Care Alliance, will provide participants tips for making smart choices when going out to eat or ordering take out. It will review options for planning ahead when eating out and practicing mindful eating in any setting. Registration is required by calling 534-3698 or by registering using the Zoom registration link located on RiverMills Centers Facebook page.

“Essential Oils & First Aid”

On Fri., June 11 at 11:00 a.m., the COA will present the program “Essential Oils & First Aid.”

Would you like to learn more about natural alternatives to self-care during times of emotional or physical distress or injury? During this Zoom class, you will learn the use of Essential Oils to support, calm and soothe your body and emotions, as well as how to use essential oils for natural support and wellness when first aid is required. Registration is required for this class by calling RiverMills Center at 534-3698 or by registering via the Zoom link provided on RiverMills Centers Facebook Page.

“Eating Well While Eating Out”

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This workshop, presented by Ascentria Care Alliance, will provide participants tips for making smart choices when going out to eat or ordering take out. It will review options for planning ahead when eating out and practicing mindful eating in any setting. Registration is required by calling 534-3698 or by registering using the Zoom registration link located on RiverMills Centers Facebook page.

Monthly self-exams save lives: breast health important all year round

SPRINGFIELD, WESTFIELD — If a problem can’t be seen, it can’t be solved, and when it comes to health care, the earlier a health condition is detected, the sooner steps can be taken to treat it. Although facing fears around diseases can be challenging, early detection of breast cancer, for example, can mean a 99% five-year survival rate, according to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. That’s why a plan including both breast self-exams (BSEs) and mammograms is important.

“Regular self-exams help people become more familiar with their breasts, so that subtle changes are more easily detectable, which could identify possible warning signs of cancer early on,” said Patience Marks, WHNP-BC, a certified women’s health nurse practitioner at Women’s Health Associates in Westfield and Springfield, “We hear a lot about breast cancer during the month of October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but breast self-exams should be performed once a month, all year round.”

Marks offers these tips for BSEs:

Perform BSEs at the same time each month, but not during

a menstrual cycle. Check breasts twice, both while lying down and while standing up.

Look for any changes in size or color.

With the inner pads of the three middle fingers, use a circular or up and down motion across each breast.

Feel for any lumps or thickening of the breast. These aren’t necessarily indications of cancer but should be reported to a health care provider right away.

“BSEs are just one of the exams we recommend women have on a regular basis to improve their chances of early detection and treatment, as well as for overall health and quality of life,” said Marks.

For best results in disease prevention, she noted women should have additional regular exams, including Pap smears, breast and pelvic exams, mammograms, bone density screening and STD tests.

The providers at Women’s Health Associates offer annual well-woman check-ups that include lifestyle and risk factor discussions, a physical exam and any necessary tests. For more information, visit WHAOB-GYN.com.

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Page 10 | May 28, 2021

Chicopee Register



# Sports

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Moises Rodriguez gets a set.

## Pacers swept by Orioles

CHICOPEE – Last week, the Chicopee High School boys volleyball team suffered a 3-0 sweep at the hands of Belchertown. Chicopee was in every match, including the third set, a 25-23 loss. Chicopee is now 1-2, with their first win over the season coming over Central High School last Wednesday afternoon. Chicopee next meets Athol, followed by a rematch against Belchertown on June 4.



Nathaniel Torres saves a play with a bump from the back line.



Treshawn Downie gets play started with a bump.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

Yeanhnixon Beltes barely keeps the ball in play.



Jarell Bess goes off-balance to make a play on the ball.

## Buffone picks up another win at Monadnock



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Todd Patnode picked up the win last Saturday night in the modified race.

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Teen sensation Cam Curtis stayed red-hot Saturday, May 22, at Monadnock Speedway, storming to his third Late Model Sportsman feature win in a row. This one was special.

In the Modified main, veteran star Todd Patnode scored his first victory of the young season. Street Stock ace Chris Buffone earned his third 2021 victory lap, Mini Stock ace Ray King used his second win to move all alone to the top of the points parade, and Nick Houle rocked the Pure Stocks for his first win this year.

Young Gun Aaliyah Tacy made her own memories Saturday on the high banks, earning her first career victory.

It was only a year ago that someone dominated the LMS field like Cam Curtis is doing right now at Monadnock. That someone was, of course, Aaron Fellows. But while the Croydon star was 40 and had more than

two decades of racing experience under his belt. Curtis is only 15.

Cory Plummer and Robert Hagar led the 23-car LMS lineup to the green as the 52-lap Dean Smith Memorial event got underway. Plummer led lap one but was then dumped from the point, with Exeter, N.H. hot shoe Frankie Eldredge then taking charge on the ensuing restart.

With a \$1,300 winner's purse and lots of lap money up for grabs, Eldredge kept the cash coming in for the next 23 laps, but Curtis, then done with conserving his tires, rocketed to the front, dominating the final 28 go-rounds to top the prestigious Smith Memorial event.

The win helped Curtis expand his points lead after four nights of racing. Eldredge completed his strong night's work in second, while Austin Bre-

See **RACING** page 12

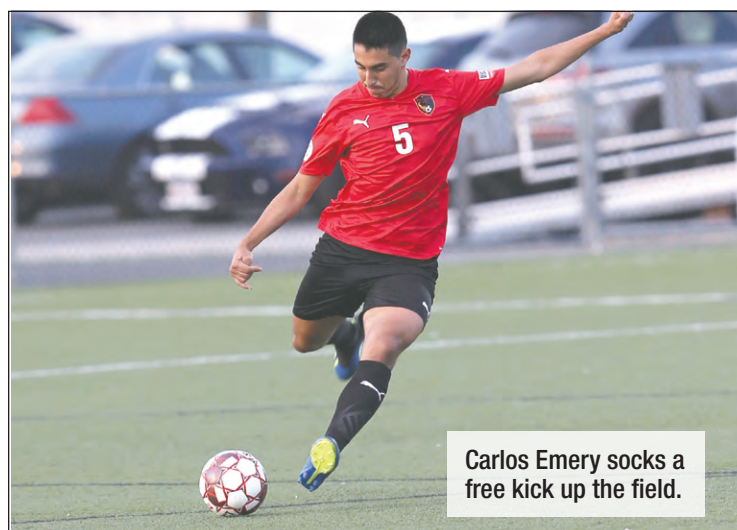
## Hicks gets assist in Pioneers draw

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Connor Hicks, of Monson, assisted on the Pioneers only goal against the Phantoms with 10 minutes remaining in regulation tying the score at 1-1. It wound up being the final score of last Friday night's home match.

"I've been playing soccer for this team for two years and it felt very nice to be a starter in front of the home fans for the first time," said Hicks following the match. "It was a hard-fought battle tonight, and it was a good game for our fans to watch."

Hicks, who's also a member of the AIC men's soccer team, was one of the Pioneers starting defenders, along with Nicholas Obrrauch, who's from Rome, Italy, Carlos Emery, who's from



Carlos Emery socks a free kick up the field.

Paysandu, Uruguay, and Federico Gutierrez, who's from Montevideo, Uruguay. Guillermo Deal and Maxi Viera, who's the Pioneers captain, are also from Montevideo, Uruguay.



Guillermo Deal looks at an open teammate while continuing to dribble.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM  
Patrick Agyemang dekes as he dribbles up the field.

"I'm the only defender who doesn't speak Spanish which makes it a little bit difficult at times back there," Hicks said. "I'm learning a lot from those guys and it's a lot of fun playing soccer with them."

Hicks had his own rooting section at last Friday's match.

"My family have been my biggest supporters since I began playing soccer 19 years ago. They haven't missed very many of my games. The atmosphere at the stadium is always very special. Everyone enjoys coming here and they always have a good time."

Hicks, who graduated from Monson High School in 2017, was a five-year member of the boys varsity soccer team. He helped the Mustangs win back-to-back Division 4 state championship titles in 2015 and 2016. Hicks, who was the hero of the

See **PIONEERS** page 12



# Host families sought for Blue Sox players

HOLYOKE – One of the most frequently asked questions we receive here at the Blue Sox front office is ‘where do your players live?’ The answer is **host families**. Host families ‘adopt’ a player during the summer – and in the process form lifelong friendships and bonds with the players. Not only do you get to follow ‘your boys’ through a season of Blue Sox baseball – but you get to stay in touch with them as they chase their dream of becoming a Major League Baseball player.

Being a host family is a tremendously rewarding experience. If you’re interest-

ed, the following information is for you!

## What’s expected of the host family?

Host families are to provide free room and board to players during the 2 ½ month Blue Sox season. Players are responsible for making their way to and from the park for each game – but the more you can be present, the better. Above all else, it’s your job as a host family to help make the players transition to a new and sometimes foreign community easier. While players are developing as professionals, they are still young men

who are learning to adjust without their Mother of Father to provide. Your job is to simply help bridge that gap.

## What’s in it for the host family?

As a thank you to opening up your home and families to our players, you get provided with the following benefits:

- Paid General Admission for your family throughout the season
- Food vouchers for each home game
- Special on-field recognition at the end of the season
- Access to special team events
- Free tickets to the Western Massa-

chusetts Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

And who knows – the next future hall of Famer may be starting his career here in the Valley and he could be bunking in your home, playing games with your kids and sharing Sunday dinner with your family.

## How do I apply?

If you are interested in being a host family, please call our office at (413) 533-1100 or e-mail Heather Ciaglo at [heather.ciaglo@valleybluesox.com](mailto:heather.ciaglo@valleybluesox.com). Give us a call today!

# 2021 Hall ceremony returns to Western Mass.

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame has revealed the Class of 2021 which will be celebrated and enshrined in Springfield, Mass. – the birthplace of basketball – this September. The ceremony returns to Springfield on September 11, after a one-year relocation to Mohegan Sun for ample physical distancing due to the global pandemic.

The Class of 2021 includes ninth-winningest coach in NBA history Rick Adelman, two-time NBA champion and 11-time NBA All-Star Chris Bosh, NBA Finals MVP and 10-time NBA All-Star Paul Pierce, the first Black NBA head coach Bill Russell, two-time NCAA national champion Villanova coach Jay Wright, seven-time WNBA All-Star and

two-time Olympic gold medalist Yolanda Griffith, and seven-time WNBA All-Star and three-time WNBA Most Valuable Player Lauren Jackson.

Distinguished committees focused on preserving all areas from the game also selected seven enshrinees for the Class of 2021: Val Ackerman, Cotton Fitzsimmons and Howard Garfinkel from the Contributor Committee, Clarence “Fats” Jenkins from the Early African American Pioneers Committee, Toni Kukoc from the International Committee, Bob Dandridge from the Veterans Committee and Pearl Moore from the Women’s Veterans Committee.

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at Mohegan Sun on Friday, Sept. 10 with the Enshrinement Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala. The Class of 2021 and

over 50 returning Hall of Famers will then journey to Springfield, Mass. for the annual celebratory events taking place at the newly renovated Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and Springfield’s MassMutual Center on Sept. 11.

For further information on VIP Experience Packages, single event tickets, and Enshrinement Weekend details, visit [www.hoopshall.com/Enshrinement](http://www.hoopshall.com/Enshrinement). As the health and safety of Hall of Famers, fans and staff is of the utmost importance, the Basketball Hall of Fame is monitoring the COVID-19 situation closely and will provide appropriate health and safety measures for all events. Further details about the Class of 2021 schedule of events will be announced at a later date.

## PIONEERS from page 11

2016 state finals against Cohasset, scored a total of 32 goals during the final two seasons of his varsity career. He has scored a handful of goals at AIC where he’s a midfielder.

“I normally play on the right wing at AIC,” Hicks said. “I’ve started at right back in the last two matches for the Pioneers. I’m used to playing on that side of the field and I’ll play any position that coach (Federico) Molinari wants me to play. I really enjoy being a member of this soccer team.”

Molinari appreciates Hicks’s dedication, and he earned his starting position.

“Even though he didn’t get very much playing time last season (2019), Conner didn’t miss any practices,” Molinari said. “He’s been working very hard so far this season and deserves to be one of the starters. He has really improved a lot.”

Hicks made his first career start on May 15 in the Pioneers 1-0 shutout win at FC Malaga City, which is a new USL League Two club this season from Llangrannville, New York.

The Pioneers had a 1-1-1 overall record following the home opener. They lost to the Boston Bolts in another road match in the season opener.

During the 30th minute of last Friday’s home opener, it looked like Seacoast would be taking a 1-0 lead. Mullen made an outstanding diving save on the low shot attempt by Frantz Pierrot and managed to deflect the ball away. Mullen was credited with a total of four saves.

The Pioneers had a couple of chances late in the half, but the contest was still scoreless at the break.

The Phantoms, who arrived in Ludlow with a 2-0-0 season record, took a 1-0 lead following a free kick during the 69th minute. The free kick was taken from the right sideline by Jamie Davis and the ball sailed to the far post where Maxwell Murray booted it into the right corner of the goal.

A little more than ten minutes later, Hicks sent a pass into the box where Patrick Agyemang knocked it into the right corner of the goal tying the score.

“I crossed the ball into the box to Pat and he finished off the play by scoring a goal,” Hicks said. “It was actually my first career point as a member of the Pioneers.”

Agyemang, who’s from East Hartford, Connecticut, entered the match during the 73rd minute.

It was his first goal of the season. Ignacio Lerech, who’s from Tucuman, Argentina, netted the Pioneers goal late in the second half against FC Malaga City.

With a little more than five minutes remaining, a shot attempt by Gabriel Ganzer, who’s a first-year Pioneers player from Taquarucu do Sul, Brazil was saved by Seacoast goalie Christian Garner.

The Pioneers are scheduled to play two more road matches against AC Connecticut (May 26) and Seacoast United (May 29) before returning to the friendly confines of Lusitano Stadium on June 4 to face FC Malaga City.

## RACING from page 11

hio’s race-long solid performance netted him third on the night.

There was no full moon Saturday looking down on Monadnock Speedway, a fact perhaps misunderstood by a portion of the Modified field. It took six cautions to get their 40-lapper completed.

Todd Patnode, charging from row six, took the lead from Kimmy Rivet on lap 19 and sailed off to his first win of the season. Cory Plummer passed Tyler Leary with the white flag in the air to come home second.

Street Stock powerhouse Chris Buffone edged past Tim Wenzel on lap ten and then held him in his shadow the rest of the way to score his third 2021 victory. With Wenzel strong in second, two-time 2020 winner Hillary Renaud came home third.

A week ago, Mini Stock rockers Gordon Farnum and Ray King sat on row five, with Farnum then blasting to victory. This week, with the potent pair now tied atop the points parade, they again started side-by-side in row five.

This time, it was King scoring the

easy win. Cody Leblanc – all the way from Bethlehem, N.H., more than three hours away – was strong in second, and Kevin Cormier came home third. Farnum finished sixth on Saturday.

Pure Stocker Nick Houle finished off his impressive weekend by winning Saturday’s 25-lapper. Third the night before at Claremont, Houle went tooth-and-nail with JD Stockwell over their last ten trips around the high banks to score the win.

Stockwell, rock solid all night, earned the runner-up hardware, with Kyle Robinson Newell impressive in third, just ahead of division strongman Chris Davis. Chris Higbee rounded out the top five after leading the first 15 laps.

Aaliyah Tacy kept Fast Eddie Petruskevicius in her shadow all the way to score her first-ever Young Guns victory. Teagan Edson was third under the checkers in her first career race.

Next Saturday, May 29, Monadnock Speedway will celebrate Memorial Day weekend with a special Teddy Bear Pools Street Stock 50-lapper, NHSTRA Modifieds, and much more. Post time is 7 p.m.

## Monadnock Speedway May 22 official results:

LATE MODEL SPORTSMEN, 52 LAPS: Camdyn Curtis, Frankie Eldredge, Austin Brehio, Robert Hagar, Hayden, Scott, Ryan Currier, Craig Smith, Robert Melvin Jr., William Kuhn, Cory Plummer, Ryan Bell, Dylan Bodreau, Daniel Comeau, Nancy Muni Ruot, Justin Littlewood, Jason Maki, Cole Littlewood, Tyler Lescord, Scott Beck, Rocky Smith, Ricky Bly, Ben Poland, Christopher Jackman

NHSTRA MODIFIEDS: Todd Patnode, Cory Plummer, Tyler Leary, Matt Kimball, Aaron Fellows, Scott MacMichael, JT Cloutier, Chris Jackman, Eric LeClair, Kimmy Rivet, Bryan Chapin, Ben Byrne

STREET STOCKS: Chris Buffone, Tim Wenzel, Hillary Renaud, Nate Wenzel, Rupert Thompson, Keith Johnson, Paul Smith, Nathaniel Nunez, Scott Zilinsky, Chris Riendeau, (DNS) Leighton Lutz

MINI STOCKS: Ray King, Cody Leblanc, Kevin Cormier, Louie Maher, Kevin Clayton, Gordon Farnum, Kevin McKnight, Jeff Asselin, Mike Douglas, Jake Puchalski. 11. 57X-Patrick Houle, 15C-Trevor Carey, William Chaffee, Robert Kirker, Richard Whipple, Matthew Lambert, Deion Russell, Christopher Grove, (DNS) Josh Wright, (DNS) Ethan Marsh

PURE STOCKS: Nick Houle, JD Stockwell, Kyle Robinson Newell, Chris Davis, Chris Higbee, Jake Bosse, Jason LeRay, Kevin Willey, Jimmy Zellman, Damien Houle, 33-Tim Shepard, Brianna Patnode, Carter Chamberlin, James Decourey, Dakota Lanou, Reagan Buffum, Ryan Lawliss, Brittany Patnode, Cory Lofland, Damon Roy, (DNS) Steven Zebrowski

YOUNG GUNS: Aaliyah Tacy, Eddie Petruskevicius, Teagan Edson, Jeff Moffat Jr., Eddie Gomarilo.



**SEND US YOUR SPORTS PHOTOS**  
Have you taken photos at a local sports event and want to see them published in this paper? Email your image(s) with description to: [sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

# EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day,

## PUBLIC NOTICES

EARLY AD DEADLINE

Place your public notice  
no later than NOON

**Friday, May 28**

– Thank you!



PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD21P0942EA  
Estate of:  
Louis Benedict Covill  
Also known as:  
Louis B Covill  
Date of Death: 04/08/2020  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Richard L Covill** of Windsor Locks, CT requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Richard L Covill** of Windsor Locks, CT be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/16/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If

you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 19, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
05/28/2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**  
**PROJECT:** Abbey Brook Restoration Project  
**LOCATION:** Frank J. Szot Memorial Park, 0 Abbey Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA  
**PROPOSER:** City of Chicopee

The undersigned is submitting an Expanded Environmental Notification Form ("EENF") to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on

or before May 17, 2021  
This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA", M.G.L. c. 30, s.s. 61-62I). Copies of the EENF may be obtained from: Emily Tully, Tighe & Bond; ETully@tighebond.com; 413.875.1622

During the interim Covid-19 response period, electronic copies of the EENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Chicopee

The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the EENF in the Environmental Monitor, will receive public comments on the project for 30 days, and will then decide, within 7 days, if an Environmental Impact Report is needed. A site visit and consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit or consultation session, should email MEPA@mass.gov. Mail correspondence will continue to be accepted, though responses may be delayed. Mail correspondence should be direct to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project.

By City of Chicopee  
05/28/2021

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES**  
Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **June 11, 2021** at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

**1997 SUBARU LEGACY**  
VIN: 4S3BG6852V7624565  
UNKNOWN

**2001 NISSAN MAXIMA**  
VIN: 4S3BG6852V7624565  
JONATHAN ARES  
12 YALE ST  
WESTFIELD, MA 01085

**2004 CHEVROLET EXPRESS G2500**  
VIN: 1GCGG25V141186061  
GARY GIVEN  
5237 DURHAM RD  
GUILFORD, CT 06437

**2004 TOYOTA COROLLA**  
VIN: 2T1KR32E84C207790  
CHARLES GANITT  
252 PEARL HARBOR AVE  
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604

**2006 NISSAN SENTRA**  
VIN: 3N1CB51D56L607905  
ALYSSA VALASQUEZ  
50 WESTFORD DR  
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01109

**2007 FORD EDGE**  
VIN: 2FMDK49C77BB48375  
SARA BISCALDI  
115 GRANVILLE RD  
SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

**2010 HYUNDAI ACCENT**  
VIN: KMHCM3ACXAU181884  
ALEX GAGNON  
725 CHICOPEE ST  
CHICOPEE, MA 01013

**2012 SUZUKI KIZASHI**  
VIN: JS2RF9A37C6100431

SERGEY GOROBINSKIY  
4 COOLIDGE RD  
CHICOPEE, MA 01013  
**2016 NISSAN ROGUE**  
VIN: JN8AT2MV0GW152062  
ROBERT BURKE  
90 EDGELAND ST  
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01108  
05/28, 06/04, 06/11/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD21P0892GD  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304  
In the matter of:  
Geraldine Stuckey  
Of: Chicopee, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Willimansett Center East** of Chicopee, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Geraldine Stuckey** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Nancy Godbout** of Granby, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition

is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **06/24/2021**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 20, 2021

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
05/28/2021

BUSINESS

Monson Savings Bank hires Chicopee resident as new executive

MONSON - Monson Savings Bank is pleased to announce the recent hire of Jason A. Berry as Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer.

"We are very happy to welcome Jay to the Monson Savings Bank team," said Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President and CEO. "Jay has extensive banking experience and has been a commercial lender within our local market. He is extremely knowledgeable in his field and has a strong customer service background. I am confident he will be a major asset to the Bank and our business customers searching for commercial lending solutions."

Berry resides in Chicopee with his son. He graduated from Westfield State

University with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science after earning his Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts at Holyoke Community College. He brings over 15 years of banking and financial experience to Monson Savings Bank. Berry most recently held the role of Vice President Business Banking Relationship Manager at People's United Bank serving the Western Massachusetts region with commercial banking needs.

In his role as Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer, Berry will be



Jason Berry

focused on providing customized, sensible lending and deposit solutions to businesses. He will be assisting in the maximization of cash flow and bringing the full scope of the bank's extensive products and high tech services to the businesses he services. He will also introduce business partners, who are experts in their field, to support businesses. Ultimately, he aims to help local businesses reach or exceed their goals.

"To say that I am thrilled to be part of Monson Savings Bank is an under-

statement," said Jason Berry, Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer. "My entire career has been focused on doing the right thing for my customers and being responsive to any and all questions and inquiries. I'm passionate about advocating for businesses and helping them evolve by providing candid, strategic, and sensible solutions. I look forward to being a dependable ambassador for Monson Savings and an extension of support for our business customers."

To contact Jason Berry, Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer of Monson Savings Bank you can call him directly at 413-313-1543 or email him at jberry@monsonsavings.com.

crossword answers

H	E	R	D				H	E	R			E	S	T	E
O	B	E	A	H			A	C	E			N	A	H	A
E	L	A	T	E	S		G	O	N			A	F	A	R
S	A	M	A	R	A		A	T	E			M	A	N	N
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C	A	T	B	I	R	D		E	L	M					
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S	U	D	S		D	D	S				S	A	K	I	

Chicopee Register  
OBITUARY POLICY

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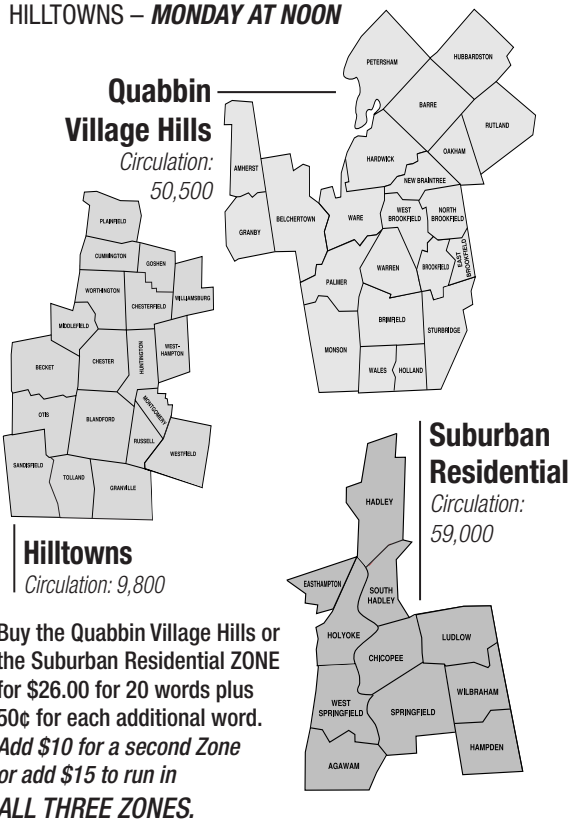
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25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Allergies can be confused with COVID-19 symptoms

SPRINGFIELD, WEST SPRINGFIELD – As we move through May, seasonal allergens are shifting from tree pollen to weeds and grasses. With some of this year's unseasonably warm and rainy weather, pollen producing trees and plants are in full bloom, triggering allergic reactions in many Massachusetts residents. Unfortunately, some of the ailments — headaches, fatigue, runny nose and sore throat — are similar to COVID-19 symptoms, leaving people confused about when to seek testing and care.

"After more than a year of this pandemic, we are all hyper-vigilant about symptoms

that might indicate a COVID-19 infection," said Dr. Vincent Meoli, regional medical director of American Family Care, with locations in Springfield and West Springfield. "It's true that there are similarities, but there are also some key differences. For example, itchy, watery eyes and sneezing are strong indications of seasonal allergies and are not generally associated with COVID."

Meoli notes that a high fever usually accompanies COVID-19, but rarely seasonal allergies. The same is true with a sudden loss of taste or smell. "If you experience these symptoms, you should definitely get tested," he said.

When it comes to keeping allergy symptoms in check, Meoli recommends being proactive about treatment. "There are a variety of over-the-counter and prescription medications that can help provide relief for allergy sufferers," said Meoli. "Work with a health care provider to find what works best for you, or if you need help determining if what you are experiencing are allergy symptoms or something else."

At the end of the day, it's better to be safe than sorry, especially since the COVID-19 virus is so contagious. "When in doubt, it's always best to see a medical provider and get checked out," said Meoli.

## Big E Vaccination Clinic offering "walk-in" availability

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The West of the River Collaborative COVID Vaccination site at the Eastern States Exposition (the "Big E") will be open for "walk-ins" beginning Monday, May 10, 2021 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

No appointment is necessary and you will be registered on site. Please bring your insurance information and valid identification with you. If you do not have insurance, you can still get a vaccine at no cost.

The West of the River Collaborative is administering the Moderna Vaccine. Therefore, you must be 18

years of age or older to be eligible for this vaccine.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, please do not come to the site. If you are able to come for a "walk-in" vaccine, please expect delays and to know that you are required to stay at the site for at least 15 minutes after receiving your vaccine.

There are still plenty of appointments available next week as well. Please visit <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/westspringfield> if you would like to schedule an appointment for next week. If you have any questions, please email [covid@tows.org](mailto:covid@tows.org).

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### FOR RENT



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